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STUDY GUIDES

# EPA 608

## Diagnostic Assessment

## Week 4 Checkpoint

Answer Key & Weakness Map

Scored by the four Section 608 exam sections • Original practice questions

Find your weak sections, then study the chapters that matter most

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## How to Use This Material

Take this assessment in one sitting with a 45-minute timer, choosing the single BEST answer for each question. It has 40 questions, 10 from each section of the exam: Core, Type I, Type II and Type III. Then score it with the separate answer key and fill in the Weakness Map at the end of the key: count your correct answers in each section, and study the sections marked Focus first or Review before the others. The interactive version on the Diagnostic page of the EPA 608 bonus site scores your Weakness Map automatically.

# EPA 608 Week 4 Checkpoint: Answer Key

The best answer for each question, with an explanation and the book section to review.

## Section 1: Core Questions 1-10

**1. B** No; same components, different proportions

The letter after a blend number marks a different mix of the same components. R-407A and R-407C contain the same three HFCs in different proportions and are not interchangeable.

Core · Review: Book section 1.3

**2. A** Documentation of the refrigerant added

A technician who adds or removes refrigerant on an ODS appliance of 50 lb or more must give the owner documentation of the service. The owner keeps it for 3 years.

Core · Review: Book section 2.9

**3. C** Recover it to 0 psig, make it unusable, and recycle it as scrap

Industry practice is to recover the remaining refrigerant to 0 psig, make the cylinder unusable and send it for scrap recycling. Disposable cylinders may never be refilled, and venting refrigerant is prohibited.

Core · Review: Book section 5.4

**4. B** Yes; proof of employing a certified technician is enough

An employer who gives the seller proof that it employs at least one certified technician may buy. R-454B is a non-exempt substitute, so the restriction does apply to it.

Core · Review: Book section 2.4

**5. A** A compressor burnout with contaminated oil

A strong odor during recovery suggests a compressor burnout. Recover the refrigerant into its own labeled cylinder, change the recovery machine filter afterward and test the oil for acid.

Core · Review: Book section 3.5

**6. D** Venting ban (ODS), certified recovery equipment, technician certification, venting ban (substitutes)

The order is July 1, 1992 (venting ban for CFCs and HCFCs), Nov 15, 1993 (certified recovery equipment), Nov 14, 1994 (technician certification) and Nov 15, 1995 (venting ban for substitutes).

Core · Review: Book section 1.5

**7. B** Never in series

Pressure relief valves protect the system and must not be installed in series.

Core · Review: Book section 5.3

**8. D** About 1.7 times higher

At 40°F, R-410A reads 118.8 psig and R-22 68.6 psig, about 1.7 times higher. That is why gauges, hoses and cylinders must be rated for R-410A-class pressures.

Core · Review: Book section 3.3

**9. C** R-32, R-454B, R-1234yf, R-1234ze(E)

The A2L set on the exam is R-32, R-454B, R-1234yf and R-1234ze(E). R-410A and R-134a are A1, and R-290 is A3.

Core · Review: Book section 6.2

**10. A** Recovery: certified machine to Table 1; evacuation: vacuum pump to a micron target

Recovery removes and stores refrigerant with certified equipment to the Table 1 level required by §82.156. Evacuation uses a vacuum pump, which exhausts to the air, to reach a manufacturer's micron target.

Core · Review: Book section 4.4

## Section 2: Type I: Small Appliances Questions 11-20

**11. A** No; the limit is based on the full charge, not the amount left

The 15 lb limit refers to the appliance's full charge, the amount needed for normal operation. A 20 lb appliance stays over the limit however much has leaked out.

Type I · Review: Book section 4.2

**12. B** No; a mail-in Type I cannot count toward Universal

A mail-in Type I needs 84% (21 of 25) to pass, but it cannot count toward Universal, which requires closed-book, proctored sections. The technician holds Type I, II and III, not Universal.

Type I · Review: How to Use This Book

**13. D** Refuse; recharge only with R-600a by weight to the nameplate amount

Never mix refrigerants in a system. Repair the unit and recharge only with the nameplate refrigerant, weighed in. A non-flammable refrigerant added to a hydrocarbon charge still creates a mixture the system was not designed for.

Type I · Review: Book section 6.3

**14. D** Stop recovery, wait a few minutes and watch the gauge for a rise

After stopping, refrigerant in the oil or trapped liquid can boil off and raise the pressure. If the gauge rises, recovery continues before the system is opened.

Type I · Review: Book section 7.2

**15. B** A solderless piercing valve or saddle valve

Piercing-type access fittings are also called solderless piercing valves or saddle valves. They clamp onto the tubing because most small appliances have no service valves.

Type I · Review: Book section 7.4

**16. A** Nothing specific; most refrigerants now share that color

Under AHRI Guideline N, new refrigerant containers are all RAL 7044 light gray-green, so the label is the primary identification. Flammable refrigerant containers add a red band on top.

Type I · Review: Book section 5.4

**17. C** A process stub

Small appliances must have a process stub, a length of tubing that gives access to the refrigerant. Larger appliances must have a servicing aperture instead.

Type I · Review: Book section 7.1

**18. B** No; small appliances need Type I or Universal

Type II covers medium-, high- and very high-pressure appliances except small appliances. A factory-sealed unit of 5 lb or less is a small appliance, so Type I or Universal is needed.

Type I · Review: Book section 2.3

**19. C** A compressor burnout with contaminated oil

A strong odor during recovery suggests a compressor burnout. Watch for contaminated oil, take an oil sample and install a suction-line filter-drier when the system is repaired.

Type I · Review: Book section 3.5

**20. A** More refrigerant is being released and recovery should continue

A rise after heating and tapping shows refrigerant coming out of the oil. Continue until the required level holds.

Type I · Review: Book section 7.3

## Section 3: Type II: High- and Medium-Pressure Appliances Questions 21-30

**21. D** Medium-, high- and very high-pressure appliances

Medium-, high- and very high-pressure appliances are evacuated to no higher than 0 psig. Low-pressure appliances sit in a vacuum, so they are pressurized to 0 psig instead.

Type II · Review: Book section 2.5

**22. C** It is 1.5 mm Hg absolute, a deeper vacuum than 25 mm Hg

1 mm Hg = 1,000 microns, so 1,500 microns = 1.5 mm Hg absolute. On absolute scales, smaller numbers mean deeper vacuum, so 1.5 mm Hg is deeper than 25 mm Hg.

Type II · Review: Book section 3.2

**23. A** By calculation, measurement or a range midpoint

Full charge may be determined from the manufacturer's figure, by calculation, by actual measurement, or by using the midpoint of a range. Assumed values and past additions are not accepted methods.

Type II · Review: Book section 2.9

**24. D** The weight of refrigerant recovered

Weighing the cylinder before and after gives the amount recovered, which goes on the cylinder label and in service records.

Type II · Review: Book section 4.3

**25. A** Refuse; replace it with the manufacturer's part

Never disconnect, bypass or defeat an A2L refrigerant sensor. Sensors are factory-calibrated and not field-adjustable, so a failed sensor is replaced only with the manufacturer's part.

Type II · Review: Book section 6.3

**26. C** It must reach the pre-Nov 15, 1993 Table 1 levels

Equipment made before Nov 15, 1993 is exempt from the certification requirement (it is considered certified if it can reach the required evacuation levels). It must still reach the levels in the pre-1993 column of Table 1.

Type II · Review: Book section 2.6

**27. B** Liquid refrigerant may reach the compressor

Superheat confirms that only vapor leaves the evaporator. Near-zero superheat means the evaporator is overfed and liquid may flood back to the compressor. A starved evaporator or undercharge gives high superheat.

Type II · Review: Book section 3.4

**28. C** The pressure matches R-22; no excess air is shown

R-22 saturates at about 121 psig at 70°F, so the reading matches the PT chart. Air would push the pressure above the chart value.

Type II · Review: Book section 5.4, 8.6

**29. D** At flare fittings, service valves and valve cores

Leaks are most often found at mechanical and brazed joints and at points that move or vibrate: flare fittings, service valves, access ports and Schrader cores, shaft seals and rubbing tubing.

Type II · Review: Book section 4.5

**30. B** 0 in. Hg

R-454B is high-pressure, and under 200 lb that row is 0 in. Hg. Its A2L flammability class changes the tools required, not the Table 1 level.

Type II · Review: Book section 8.2

## Section 4: Type III: Low-Pressure Appliances Questions 31-40

**31. B** 18.1 in. Hg vacuum, a 40°F saturation

R-123's 18.1 in. Hg vacuum is its 40°F saturation pressure. 16.9 in. Hg (about 36°F) is the R-11 figure, and labeling 18.1 in. Hg as 32°F is a common error.

Type III · Review: Book section 9.7

**32. D** Pressurize with nitrogen through a regulator, to no more than 10 psig

When heat is not feasible, nitrogen is the fallback for a leak test, kept at 10 psig or less. Compressed air is never used, and 15 psig is the rupture disc's burst pressure.

Type III · Review: Book section 9.3

**33. D** In the condenser shell, to water in the tubes

Hot discharge vapor condenses in the condenser shell, giving its heat to condenser water flowing inside the tubes. The evaporator is where the refrigerant absorbs heat.

Type III · Review: Book section 9.2

**34. B** It fell from about 40°F to near 20°F

On the in. Hg vacuum scale, a larger number is a deeper vacuum and a lower saturation temperature. R-123 is 18.1 in. Hg at 40°F and 22.8 in. Hg at 20°F.

Type III · Review: Book section 3.2

**35. D** 104°F

All the §82.152 class definitions use saturation pressure at 104°F. 70°F is a common PT-check temperature, not the classification point.

Type III · Review: Book section 8.1

**36. A** No; each machinery room needs its own detector

ASHRAE 15 requires a refrigerant detector in each machinery room, located where leaked refrigerant would concentrate.

Type III · Review: Book section 5.3

**37. C** Every 3 months, until 4 straight quarters with no exceedance

Commercial refrigeration and IPR appliances of 500 lb or more need quarterly leak inspections after exceeding the threshold, until four consecutive quarters pass with no exceedance.

Type III · Review: Book section 9.8

**38. A** Shorten the hoses between the chiller and the recovery unit

Long hoses cause pressure drop and slow recovery. Stopping the water risks freezing the tubes and removes the heat that boils the refrigerant off, and raising the cut-out defeats a safety control.

Type III · Review: Book section 4.3

**39. D** Removing the condenser for replacement

Major maintenance, service or repair means removing the compressor, condenser, evaporator or auxiliary heat-exchange coil, or uncovering an opening of more than 4 sq in of flow area for more than 15 minutes.

Type III · Review: Book section 2.5

**40. B** No; an inspection must locate the leak, not just show a loss

A leak inspection must find where the leak is. Methods that only show that refrigerant or air is moving, such as purge activity or pressure decay, must be paired with a method that locates the leak.

Type III · Review: Book section 2.9

# Your Weakness Map

Circle each question you missed, then count your correct answers per section. Under 60% = **Focus first**; 60–79% = **Review**; 80% or more = **Maintain**. On the real exam, 70% (18 of 25) passes a section.

| Exam section | Questions | Correct | Study if below 80% |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Core** | 1-10 | ____ of 10 | Chapter 2: Section 608 Rules (the most-tested Core chapter)<br>plus the book sections listed under each question you missed |
| **Type I: Small Appliances** | 11-20 | ____ of 10 | Chapter 7: Type I: Small Appliances<br>plus the book sections listed under each question you missed |
| **Type II: High- and Medium-Pressure Appliances** | 21-30 | ____ of 10 | Chapter 8: Type II: High- and Medium-Pressure Appliances<br>plus the book sections listed under each question you missed |
| **Type III: Low-Pressure Appliances** | 31-40 | ____ of 10 | Chapter 9: Type III: Low-Pressure Appliances<br>plus the book sections listed under each question you missed |

With 10 questions per section, treat these percentages as a guide to where to focus, not a prediction of your exam score. Spend the first 15–20 minutes of three study sessions each week on your weakest sections, then drill each one in the online Exam Test Simulator with a 25-question set from that section only.